

**CANTON PARK COMMISSION
BOARD MINUTES
MONTHLY MEETING**

JULY 8, 2015

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in a regular meeting on June 10, 2015.

Attendees:

Board Members: President - Andrew Black, Vice President – Wuyanbu Zutali

Staff Members Present: Park Director – Derek Gordon, Office Manager - Theresa Gang, Park Police Officer – Michael Carpenter

Community Members: Thomas Schmidt, Patricia Kirk, Leon Cote, Alice Sarver

The meeting was called to order at 4:13pm by President Black.

Meeting minutes from the June 10, 2015 regular Meeting were reviewed by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Black motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

Mr. Thomas Schmidt – Skate Park Concerns – Mr. Schmidt addressed the Commission with numerous concerns about the impact of the proposed skate park at the Canton Lincoln Highway Station. Mr. Schmidt presented information, public documentation and testimonials about problems experienced in Louisville regarding their skate park at Wilson Park. He also stated that the Summit United Neighborhood Association formally opposed the development of a skate park at the Canton Lincoln Highway Station. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Schmidt for this information and stated that they would continue to consider all potential benefits and detriments of a skate park before making a final decision on site location or to proceed with construction should the funding become available.

Ms. Patricia Kirk – Market Square / Kresge Lot – Ms. Kirk expressed her desire for this area to be formally recognized and protected as a park. She stated that there are plans in the works by the Chamber of Commerce and the Stark Community Foundation but they have not been shared with her. She fears that the park will be turned into an amphitheater or another purpose and would like it to be left in its current conditions. Commissioner Black confirmed with Ms. Kirk that this area is not a park but he would open up conversations with City officials about the status of the area and possibility of it becoming a park in the future.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2017 Levy Discussion – Director provided a copy of the millage certification from the Stark County Auditor which will be presented on Monday, June 15th to City Council. At this time, Council will make a final determination consider a five (5) year levy for five (5) Mills to manage all park and recreation operations under the authority of the Canton Park Commission to commence in 2017. Director Gordon strongly encouraged the Commissioners to attend as there will likely be representatives from several stakeholders in attendance. Director Gordon also stated that he has continued to meet with all of the stakeholders that will be

impacted by this levy to gauge their comfort level and receive feedback regarding the structure and impact of the new levy proposal.

2. Lee Park – Name Change Request – Director Gordon presented a formal request from Ms. Gwen Corbett for a name change of Lee Park to the Janet Creighton Recreational Park – Home of the Mighty Might Baseball Team. After reviewing the park naming policy the Commission determined that Commissioner Zutali would gauge the opinion of the local neighborhood as well as the Councilwoman given his ties to the Lee Park area before making a final determination at the August Commission meeting.
3. AEP Easement Proposal – Stadium Park – Director Gordon presented the proposed easements from AEP in Stadium Park that is required to relocate the lines that must be moved as a result of the Hall of Fame developments. President Black and Commissioner Zutali were able to review these proposed easements on site and determined that option “D” (See Attachment) would have the least detriment on the park property. Director Gordon stated that AEP is still determining whether decorative poles could be utilized to support the power lines of this easement and cherry blossoms will be planted along this easement. Commissioner Black motioned to approve this request contingent upon AEP’s confirmation of the availability of the decorative poles and cherry blossoms. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Sweat Now / Wine Later – Revenue Discussion- Director Gordon presented a final proforma from runCanton for the Sweat Now/Wine Later event from May. The event netted a small profit and the Director recommended carrying these proceeds over to the Park Light Up event which may again partner with runCanton. To assure that these financial proceeds and the management services of runCanton are more formal now that the pilot event was successful Director Gordon recommended that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) developed between the Commission and runCanton. The Commissioners agreed with this plan and requested a draft of this MOU to be submitted at the next Commission meeting.
5. Master Plan Review – A public meeting was held of June 23rd to present the final recommendations of the park master plan to the public. The final plan was distributed to the Commissioners for their review. The Commissioners expressed the desire for the final plan to be distributed to all Councilmembers and media outlets for one additional review and they would consider adoption of the plan at the August meeting pending the appointment of a new Commissioner. They agreed that a decision of this magnitude should have the input and review of a full Commission. However, the Commission provided discretion to Director Gordon to proceed with the development of individual park master plans and the processes necessary for the decommissioning of parks recommended in the study.

EVENT REQUESTS

1. Disc Golf Tournament – Arboretum Park – July 11th - Commissioner Black motioned to approve the event. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. United Way / NFL Play 60 Event – Stadium Park – August 29th – Director Gordon notified the Commission that the PCS Event for 2015 would be cancelled due to a scheduling conflict with Plain Township Parks. United Way has approached Canton Parks and Recreation with the opportunity to partner on this event to promote the kayak program, the walking track, and the other health and wellness benefits of Canton Parks. This event could replace the PCS event on the Park event calendar. Commissioner Black motioned to approve the event with an event fee waiver to serve as the Park’s sponsorship of the event. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival – Stadium Park – August 5th – 10th – Director Gordon outlined the details of the Hall of Fame’s annual request to close Stadium Park to vehicular traffic beginning on the evening of Wednesday, August 6th until the morning of Monday, August 10th (See Attached E-Mail). This request also included the closure of Monument Park on Thursday, August 6th, the use of a park staff member for the closure of the gate to Stadium Park Drive at 12th St in Stadium Park from Friday August 7th through Sunday, August, 9th, the use of the park police officer for the closure of the gate to Stadium Park Drive at Fulton Avenue in Stadium Park from Friday August 7th through Sunday, August, 9th, and the use of the Fulton Avenue parking lot in Stadium Park for credentialed parking. Commissioner Black motioned

to approve these requests with the exception of the use of the park police officer during the HOF activities. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Heaven's Legacy of Love – Monument Park and Waterworks Park – July 13th – 17th – After thorough discussion between the park staff and Commissioners it was deemed that the information presented to the Commission for this event was insufficient and incomplete for adequate consideration. The event holder will be contacted by park staff for additional information.
5. Canton's Merry Mix – Stadium Park – August 22nd - Commissioner Black motioned to approve the event. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Moody Wedding – May 14, 2016 – Arboretum Park - Commissioner Black motioned to approve the event pending the receipt of an insurance waiver and the completion of all appropriate arrangements. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Vassar Park Neighborhood Association Block Party – August 8th – Vassar Park - Commissioner Black motioned to approve the event and suggested that the neighborhood group enter into an adopt-a-park agreement to avoid the public event fee for the park given the amount of volunteer work and contributions they regularly make to the park. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Recognition of Commissioner Pelger – Commissioner Pelger communicated his need to resign from the Commission to Director Gordon due to his move to a residence outside of the city limits. His resignation letter is forthcoming and this will be his last official meeting as a Commissioner. While Commissioner Pelger was not able to attend the meeting a plaque was presented in his honor and a buckeye tree had been planted at Weis Park commemorating his service to the Park Commission.
2. Mini Park #25 Land Acquisition Opportunity – Tabled until August meeting.
3. Recreation Report – None
4. Financial Report - President Black motioned to approve the report. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Director's Report – Director Gordon presented his monthly report to the Commission. (See Attached)
6. Executive Session – Commissioner Black motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:20pm for the purposes of discussing the employment of a public official. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Black motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:54pm. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Black motioned to adjourn at 6:55pm. Commissioner Zutali seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Next Park Commission Meeting to be held at 4:00pm on August 12th, 2015 at the Canton Park and Recreation Offices.

Andy Black, President

Derek Gordon, Director